

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

Claims 1 through 6 are canceled.

7 (previously presented). A method for operating a camera, comprising the steps of waiting for an operator action, and responding to the operator action by:

detecting information from a scene, the information comprising an image of radiation from the scene;

evaluating the detected information by:

identifying, in the image of radiation, a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face;

then selecting a subset of the patterns equal in number to a specified number; and

then evaluating only the selected patterns in the subset relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;

wherein the detecting and evaluating steps are performed in a continuing manner until a point in time at which it is determined that the information from the scene includes information that is representative of the human facial characteristic and that satisfies a the specified criteria; and

recording an image of the scene corresponding substantially to the point in time.

8 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the selecting step also uses a prioritization criteria to select the subset.

Claims 9 through 11 are canceled.

12 (currently amended). The method for operating a camera, comprising the steps of:

responsive to an operator action, detecting visual information from a scene;

evaluating the detected visual information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;

continuing the detecting and evaluating steps;

responsive to the evaluating step determining that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a the human facial characteristic and that satisfies a the specified criteria, recording an image of the scene; and

detecting audible sound from the scene;

wherein the evaluating step also evaluates the detected audible sound relative to the specified criteria;

and wherein the recording step is responsive to the evaluating step determining both that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a the human facial characteristic and satisfies a first specified criteria, and that the detected audible sound satisfies a second specified criteria.

13 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 12, wherein the evaluating of the detected audible sound comprises determining whether the detected audible sound is representative of a predetermined word.

14 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 12, wherein the evaluating of the detected audible sound comprises determining whether the detected audible sound is representative of laughter.

Claims 15 through 20 are canceled.